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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,901	11/30/2001	Steve Ko	P2394-508	3253

7590 06/29/2004

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 P.O. Box 1404
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404

EXAMINER

HAILU, TADESSE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2173

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,901

Applicant(s)

KO, STEVE

Examiner

Tadesse Hailu

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 September 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to the Preliminary Amendment entered 18 September 2002 for the patent application number 09/996,901.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The submitted Information Disclosure Statement is considered and entered into the file folder.
3. The pending claims 1-27 are examined herein as follows.

Drawings

Figure 2A should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

Art Unit: 2173

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

4 Claims 1, 3-5, 7-20, and 23, 24, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Evans et al (WO 01/44918 A1).

The present invention relates to the display of information messages, such as warning or error messages associated with various elements within the GUI. Likewise Evans et al (Evans) relates to selectively providing or notifying non-modal error information in a GUI. Evans also anticipates most of the claimed subject matter of the present invention as follows.

With regard to claim 1:

Evans discloses a method and arrangements for providing non-modal error information in a graphical user interface.

The method includes among other things monitoring user's activities to determine whether message should presented to a user (page 3, lines 5-11, page 6, lines 1-8 page 7, lines 11-16, page 8, lines 5-21).

The method also includes based on the monitored condition, such as if password entry is incorrect, then the authorizing program generates or selects a corresponding message (page 7, lines 11-16, page 8, lines 5-10).

The method also includes monitoring the user activities also include identifying locating a target object (input field 110) associated with the action (password entry) performed by the user, to which the information contained within the notification message relates (page 7, lines 11-16, page 8, lines 5-22).

The method further includes displaying a notification object (tip balloon 118)

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which indicates the target object (input field 110) and contains said information message (error information **116**) corresponding to said condition (incorrect password entry), in a persistent manner until dismissed by a user or until it disappear within a predetermined time period while enabling the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target (input field **110**) (page 7, lines 11- page 8, lines 2, page 8, lines 11-22).

With regard to claim 3:

Evans discloses said tip balloon **118** (notification object) comprises an error message **116** (Fig. 2).

With regard to claim 4:

Evans discloses said tip balloon **118** (notification object) comprises reminder information **116** (notification) (page 7, lines 6-10).

With regard to claim 5:

Evans discloses said balloon **118** (notification object) includes a speech bubble having a cartouche, which points to the target (Fig. 2)

With regard to claim 7:

Evans further discloses displaying message balloon 118 also includes generating system beep (an audio indicator) (page 7, lines 17-21).

With regard to claim 8:

Evans further discloses deactivating or removing from display (or collapsing) the balloon 118 (notification object) (page 7, lines 22-24).

With regard to claim 9:

Evans discloses when user begins to retype or enter (user action) his password into the input field 110 the balloon 118 automatically deactivates (collapses) (page 7, lines 22-24).

With regard to claims 10 and 11:

Evans discloses automatically halting, or deactivation (collapsing) the display of tip balloon 118 upon subsequent user input in field 110 or elsewhere within GUI display 100 (page 3, lines 5-6, page 8, lines 15-18), such as selecting/clicking (mouse event) one of selectable user areas 106a-b (Fig. 2, page 6, lines 17-23) will deactivate (collapse) tip balloon 118 (page 8, lines 15-18).

With regard to claim 12:

Furthermore since Evans discloses typing (via key board input), the key board input includes keyboard commands, such as ENTER command, ESC command , etc. thus, typing/entering one of the keyboard commands automatically halts or deactivates (collapses) the display of tip balloon 118 (page 3, lines 5-6, page 7, lines 22-23, page 8, lines 15-18).

With regard to claim 13:

Evans further discloses that the tip balloon (notification object) is persistent and remains displayed until user corrects the incorrect password entered to the to the input field 110. Again, if the user does not retype/enter the correct password to the input field 110 the tip balloon will reappear again until the incorrect password (condition) is removed (page 7, lines 11-23).

With regard to claim 14:

As illustrated in I Fig. 2, and as described in page 3, lines 7—11, Evans further discloses that the tip balloon (notification object) is displaced from said target object so that it does not interfere (obscure) said target object.

With regard to claims 15:

Evans further discloses that said tip balloon (notification object) is non-modal and enables the user to continue interaction with an application program corresponding to said target while said object is being displayed (Abstract, page 3, lines 1-11).

With regard to claim 16:

Furthermore, since said tip balloon (notification object) is a non-modal (or modeless), it enables a user to interact with application programs other than the application program (such as selectable user areas 106a-b (Fig. 2, page 6, lines 17-23) corresponding to said target, while said object is being displayed.

With regard to claim 17:

As illustrated in Fig. 2, Evans displays the tip balloon 118 (the notification object) when an application associated with said target is active (see the active target input field 110). On the other hand since the selectable user areas 106a-b are not active a tip balloon is not displayed nearby these selectable user areas or icons.

With regard to claim 18:

Independent claim 18 corresponds generally to independent claim 1 and recites similar features in system form, and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

With regard to claim 19:

Evans discloses a graphical user interface element (GUI display 100, Fig. 2) for providing a user with information (102, 106a-b, 116, etc) regarding a computer application being executed (e.g., logon with password prompt 108), comprising a tip balloon (118) (notification object) containing information (116) relating to a target (110) within said computer application and an indication mechanism (in the form of a speech bubble, 118) which forms part of said object and points to the target with which the computer tip balloon (118) (notification object) is associated (also see page 6, lines 1-23).

With regard to claim 20:

Evans further discloses the GUI 100 providing textual information (error information 116, Fig. 2) to the user.

With regard to claim 23:

Evans discloses a tip balloon (notification object) with said indication mechanism (in the form of a speech bubble) comprises a cartouche (see Fig. 2, 118).

With regard to claim 24:

Evans further discloses displaying message balloon 118 also includes generating system beep (an audio indicator) to a user (page 7, lines 17-21).

With regard to claim 26:

Independent claim 26 corresponds generally to independent claim 1 and recites similar features in storage medium form, and therefore is rejected under the same rationale.

With regard to claim 27:

As illustrated in Fig. 2, and as described in page 6, lines 1-23, and page 7, lines 3-16, Evans discloses receiving an action performed on a computer (GUI display 100) by a user, such as entering/typing a password (Fig. 2), then based on the user entry the information to be provided to the user is determined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans et al (WO 01/44918 A1) in view of Webb (Pub No US 2003/0011639).

With regard to claim 2:

While Evans balloon 118 (notification object) comprises error messages, suggestions (page 6, line 6, and reminder information (page 7, line 9), but the balloon 118 does not show a warning.

Webb discloses a non-modal dialog box, which may also include text or a message (e.g., an alert warning or error message) to the user 114 (paragraph [0010]).

Webb and Evans are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor that is graphical user interface.

At time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the warning messages of Webb for the error messages of Evans

because Webb teaches that such warning messages warn of potentially harmful actions to the user of the system (paragraph [0008]).

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to provide instructions through warning messages.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Webb with Evans to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

6. Claims 6, 21, 22, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Evans et al (WO 01/44918 A1) in view of Wishoff (Pub No US 2002/0051017).

With regard to claims 6 and 25:

Evans discloses automatically bringing in and removing the message balloon 118 (notification object) to and from the display, this act of bringing in and removing the message balloon is not quite an animation motion. thus, Evans does not disclose expressly that the displaying includes providing a video animation sequence. Wishoff discloses displaying animations on the desktop. Wishoff also discloses when notifying users of events or conditions, small animations are played in place of the icon and a message is displayed in a single-line text window called the notify window (see paragraphs [0060], [0124] and [0128].

Wishoff and Evans are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, notification for the graphical user interface environment.

At time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the message balloon 118 of Evans with animation sequence during

display in order to alert the user that the application wants the user's attention (see Wishoff, paragraph [0060]).

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to get the user's attention.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wishoff with Evans to obtain the invention as specified in claims 6 and 25.

With regard to claims 20 and 21:

While Evans indicates that other information could be provided through tip balloon 118 (page 6, lines 7-8), but Evans is silent in mentioning the other information. However, Wishoff discloses a notification object that comprises a selectable icon or button (see paragraphs [0010], [0060], [0124] and [0140]).

Wishoff and Evans are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, notification for a graphical user interface environment

At time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to provide the tip balloon 118 of Evans with selectable icon or button during display in order to alert the user that the application wants immediate user's attention (see Wishoff, paragraph [0060]).

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to get an immediate response/attention from the user.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Wishoff with Evans to obtain the invention as specified in claims 21 and 22.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2799. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:00 -6:30 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca, can be reached at (703) 308-3116 Art Unit 2173 CPK 2-4A51.

8. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Tadesse Hailu

June 25, 2004

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tadesse Hailu", written in black ink.